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## **Cassis calls on Treasury to fix ‘structural problems’**

**Lansing** – In a Senate Finance Committee hearing Wednesday, Sen. Nancy Cassis, R-Novi, called on state Treasury Secretary Jay Rising to fix the structural problems in his department.

“We’re not here to point fingers or pick apart figures,” said Cassis, committee chair of the Senate Finance Committee. “This audit shows me there are serious structural problems at Treasury, and we must find solutions to those problems.”

A performance audit, released earlier this month by the state auditor general, found numerous instances where the Treasury’s Bureau of Local Government services failed to collect or account for tax money owed to them. The limited sample examined in the audit revealed nearly \$120 million in uncollected tax revenue.

“This audit was just a sampling,” Cassis said. “We need to have confidence that these problems don’t go deeper.”

Rising testified that the department has taken steps to correct some of the problems revealed in the audit, but acknowledged more work needed to be done.

“I am pleased work has begun to fix these problems,” Cassis said. “I am anxious to see the results of their improvements. In a time of budget shortfalls, taxpayers need assurance that Treasury is collecting all the money that is due to the state before creating new sources of revenue.”

Rising and representatives from the Office of the Auditor General will return in April to testify before the committee on the Treasury Department’s formal response to the audit.

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